

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

| | |
|--|---|
| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS Sara Munizza 1476 Makefiled Road Yardley, PA 19067 (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff <u>Bucks</u> (EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES) (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number) Graham F. Baird, Law Office of Eric A. Shore 2 Penn Center, 1500 JFK Blvd, Suite 1240, Philadelphia PA 19102 Tel: 267-546-0131 | DEFENDANTS Retinovitreous Associates, LTD d/b/a Mid Atlantic Retina 4060 Butler Pike, Suite 200 Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 County of Residence of First Listed Defendant <u>Montgomery</u> (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED. Attorneys (If Known) |
|--|---|

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff ☒ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

| CONTRACT | TORTS | FORFEITURE/PENALTY | BANKRUPTCY | OTHER STATUTES | |
|---|---|--|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise | PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education | <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement | <input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions | <input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609 | <input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes |

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding ☐ 2 Removed from State Court ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify) ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):
42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq

Brief description of cause:
Americans with Disabilities Act

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$**150,000**

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☒ Yes ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE _____

DOCKET NUMBER _____

DATE

5/25/2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

RECEIPT # _____

AMOUNT _____

APPLYING IFP _____

JUDGE _____

MAG. JUDGE _____

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR
THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

CASE MANAGEMENT TRACK DESIGNATION FORM

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------|
| Sara Munizza | : | CIVIL ACTION |
| v. | : | |
| Retinovitreous Associates, LTD | : | |
| d/b/a Mid Atlantic Retina | : | NO. |

In accordance with the Civil Justice Expense and Delay Reduction Plan of this court, counsel for plaintiff shall complete a Case Management Track Designation Form in all civil cases at the time of filing the complaint and serve a copy on all defendants. (See § 1:03 of the plan set forth on the reverse side of this form.) In the event that a defendant does not agree with the plaintiff regarding said designation, that defendant shall, with its first appearance, submit to the clerk of court and serve on the plaintiff and all other parties, a Case Management Track Designation Form specifying the track to which that defendant believes the case should be assigned.

SELECT ONE OF THE FOLLOWING CASE MANAGEMENT TRACKS:

- (a) Habeas Corpus – Cases brought under 28 U.S.C. § 2241 through § 2255. ()
- (b) Social Security – Cases requesting review of a decision of the Secretary of Health and Human Services denying plaintiff Social Security Benefits. ()
- (c) Arbitration – Cases required to be designated for arbitration under Local Civil Rule 53.2. ()
- (d) Asbestos – Cases involving claims for personal injury or property damage from exposure to asbestos. ()
- (e) Special Management – Cases that do not fall into tracks (a) through (d) that are commonly referred to as complex and that need special or intense management by the court. (See reverse side of this form for a detailed explanation of special management cases.) ()
- (f) Standard Management – Cases that do not fall into any one of the other tracks. (X)

| | | |
|------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 5/25/2021 | Graham F. Baird | Sara Munizza |
| Date | Attorney-at-law | Attorney for |
| 267-546-0131 | 215-944-6124 | GrahamB@ericshore.com |
| Telephone | FAX Number | E-Mail Address |

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

(to be used by counsel or pro se plaintiff to indicate the category of the case for the purpose of assignment to the appropriate calendar)

Address of Plaintiff: 1476 Makefield Road, Yardley, PA 19067

Address of Defendant: 4606 Butler Pike, Suite 200, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Place of Accident, Incident or Transaction: 4606 Butler Pike, Suite 200, Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

RELATED CASE, IF ANY:


Case Number: _____ Judge: _____ Date Terminated: _____

Civil cases are deemed related when *Yes* is answered to any of the following questions:

- | | | |
|--|------------------------------|--|
| 1. Is this case related to property included in an earlier numbered suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Does this case involve the same issue of fact or grow out of the same transaction as a prior suit pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent already in suit or any earlier numbered case pending or within one year previously terminated action of this court? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus, social security appeal, or pro se civil rights case filed by the same individual? | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

I certify that, to my knowledge, the within case ☐ is / ☒ is not related to any case now pending or within one year previously terminated action in this court except as noted above.

DATE: 5/25/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

CIVIL: (Place a ☒ in one category only)

A. Federal Question Cases:

- ☐ 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. FELA
- ☐ 3. Jones Act-Personal Injury
- ☐ 4. Antitrust
- ☐ 5. Patent
- ☐ 6. Labor-Management Relations
- ☒ 7. Civil Rights
- ☐ 8. Habeas Corpus
- ☐ 9. Securities Act(s) Cases
- ☐ 10. Social Security Review Cases
- ☐ 11. All other Federal Question Cases

(Please specify): _____

B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases:

- ☐ 1. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts
- ☐ 2. Airplane Personal Injury
- ☐ 3. Assault, Defamation
- ☐ 4. Marine Personal Injury
- ☐ 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury
- ☐ 6. Other Personal Injury (Please specify): _____
- ☐ 7. Products Liability
- ☐ 8. Products Liability – Asbestos
- ☐ 9. All other Diversity Cases

(Please specify): _____

ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION


(The effect of this certification is to remove the case from eligibility for arbitration.)

I, Graham F. Baird, counsel of record or pro se plaintiff, do hereby certify:

☒ Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2, § 3(c) (2), that to the best of my knowledge and belief, the damages recoverable in this civil action case exceed the sum of \$150,000.00 exclusive of interest and costs:

☐ Relief other than monetary damages is sought.

DATE: 5/25/2021


Attorney-at-Law / Pro Se Plaintiff

92692

Attorney I.D. # (if applicable)

NOTE: A trial de novo will be a trial by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38.

**UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA**

SARA MUNIZZA
1476 Makefield Road
Yardley, PA 19067

Plaintiff,

v.

RETINOVITREOUS ASSOCIATES, LTD :
d/b/a MID ATLANTIC RETINA :
4060 Butler Pike, Suite 200 :
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462 :

Defendants.

JURY DEMANDED

No.

CIVIL ACTION COMPLAINT

I. Parties and Reasons for Jurisdiction.

1. Plaintiff, SARA MUNIZZA (hereinafter “Plaintiff”) is an adult individual residing at the above address.

2. Defendant, RETINOVITREOUS ASSOCIATES, LTD d/b/a MID ATLANTIC RETINA (hereinafter “Defendant”) is a business corporation organized by and operating under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and having a principal place of business at the above captioned address.

3. At all times material hereto, Defendant qualified as Plaintiff’s employer pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act, the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act and as defined under Pennsylvania common law.

4. This action is instituted pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, the Family and Medical Leave Act and the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act.

5. Jurisdiction is conferred by 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331 and 1343.

6. Supplemental jurisdiction over the Plaintiff's state law claim is conferred pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1367.

7. Plaintiff has satisfied the administrative prerequisites and exhausted her administrative remedies prior to bringing this civil rights claim. [Exh. A.]

8. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b)(1) and (b)(2), venue is properly laid in this district because Defendant conducts business in this district, and because a substantial part of the acts and/or omissions giving rise to the claims set forth herein occurred in this judicial district. Plaintiff was working in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania at the time of the illegal actions by Defendants as set forth herein.

II. Operative Facts.

9. In or around May of 2015, Defendant hired Plaintiff as a front desk receptionist.

10. During her employment, Plaintiff was promoted to clinical technician, the position she held at the time of her termination.

11. In or around April of 2019, Plaintiff advised Defendant that she was pregnant, with an anticipated delivery date in December of 2019.

12. Approximately one (1) week later, Plaintiff began to experience complications arising from her pregnancy, for which she sought treatment by her physician.

13. On or about May 12, 2019, Plaintiff was experiencing pain and other complications and was forced to leave work early.

14. Plaintiff was subsequently absent from work from May 12 to May 16, 2019 due to these complications arising from her pregnancy.

15. Upon her return to work, Plaintiff submitted a request for a reasonable accommodation in the form of additional rest and food breaks as needed.

16. Defendant refused to accommodate Plaintiff's request.

17. On or about June 4, 2019, Plaintiff's physician deemed Plaintiff's pregnancy "high-risk" and restricted her from all work activity.

18. Following this, Plaintiff applied and was initially approved for an FMLA leave.

19. In August of 2019, Plaintiff received an email from Defendant's third-party leave coordinator, Lindsey Lloyd, informing Plaintiff that her FMLA would be exhausted as of August 26, 2019.

20. Ms. Lloyd additionally indicated that Plaintiff would need to have her physician submit additional paperwork.

21. Plaintiff did as she was instructed, and submitted the required paperwork to Defendant in September of 2019.

22. Defendant then requested Plaintiff obtain a note from her OB/GYN confirming that she would be released to return to work six (6) to eight (8) weeks following the birth of her child.

23. On or about October 16, 2019, and pursuant to Defendant's instruction, Plaintiff submitted a note from her OB/GYN confirming the same.

24. On or about November 1, 2019, Plaintiff received a call from Defendant's human resources representative, Bethany Gross, informing her that her employment was terminated as of October 28, 2019.

25. Defendant failed to reasonably accommodate Plaintiff's disability.

26. Defendant failed to meaningfully engage in an interactive process towards the development of a reasonable accommodation for Plaintiff's disability.

27. At all times material hereto, Defendant was hostile to Plaintiff's pregnancy, diagnosed medical condition, and need to take FMLA leave, and terminated her as a result of that animus.

28. As a direct and proximate result of Defendant's conduct in terminating Plaintiff, she sustained great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, as well emotional distress, pain and suffering and other damages as set forth below.

III. Causes of Action.

COUNT I– AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT

(42 U.S.C.A. § 12101 et seq)

(Plaintiff v. Defendants)

29. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-29 as if fully set forth at length herein.

30. At all times material hereto, and pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq., an employer may not discriminate against an employee based on a disability.

31. Plaintiff is a qualified employee and person within the definition of Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.

32. Defendant is an "employer" and thereby subject to the strictures of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.

33. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff had a qualified disability, as described above.

34. Defendant failed to accommodate or otherwise engage in a meaningful back and forth towards the development of a reasonable accommodation.

35. Defendant's conduct in terminating Plaintiff is an adverse action, was taken as a result of her disability and constitutes a violation of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq.,

36. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, liquidated damages as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of her earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

37. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

38. Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, 42 U.S.C. §12101, et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

**COUNT II – EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION
(42 U.S.C.A. § 2000e-2(a))**

39. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-37 as if fully set forth at length herein.

40. Defendant took adverse action against Plaintiff by terminating her employment.

41. Plaintiff's status as a pregnant woman places her in a protected class.

42. Plaintiff's membership in a protected class was a motivating factor in Defendant's adverse actions and conduct.

43. As such, Defendant's conduct constitutes unlawful employment practices, under 42. U.S.C. § 2000e-2(a).

44. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

45. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

46. Pursuant to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 42 U.S.C. §2000e-2(a), et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

**COUNT III—PREGNANCY DISCRIMINATION ACT
(42 U.S.C.A. § 2000(e)(k) et seq)**

47. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-46 as if fully set forth at length herein.

48. At all times material hereto, and pursuant to the Pregnancy Discrimination Act an employer may not discriminate against an employee on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth or other medical conditions.

49. At all times material hereto, Plaintiff was pregnant and subject to the aforementioned adverse actions, as described above.

50. Defendant's conduct in terminating and/or declining to provide Plaintiff an accommodation was a result of her pregnancy and, as such, constitutes a violation of the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, 42 U.S.C. §2000(e)(k), et seq.

51. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss,

loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of her earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

52. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive damages.

53. Pursuant to the Pregnancy Discrimination Act, Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

COUNT IV – VIOLATION OF FMLA—RETALIATION
(29 U.S.C. §2601 et seq.)

54. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-53 as if fully set forth at length herein.

55. As set forth above, Plaintiff was entitled to medical leave pursuant to the FMLA, 29 U.S.C. §2601, et seq.

56. As described above, Defendant terminated Plaintiff's employment, an adverse action, in retaliation for her exercising her rights to take FMLA leave.

57. Defendant's motivation in terminating Plaintiff's employment was based, in part, upon her application and utilization of FMLA leave.

58. As a proximate result of Defendant's conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of her earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.

59. As a result of the conduct of Defendant's owners/management, Plaintiff hereby demands punitive and/or liquidated damages.

60. Pursuant to the Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993, 29 U.S.C. §2601, et seq Plaintiff demands attorneys fees and court costs.

COUNT V—PENNSYLVANIA HUMAN RELATIONS ACT
43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.
(Plaintiff v. Defendants)

61. Plaintiff incorporates paragraphs 1-60 as if fully set forth at length herein.

62. As set forth above, Plaintiff is a member of a protected class.

63. Defendants failed to accommodate or otherwise engage in a meaningful back and forth towards the development of a reasonable accommodation.

64. Defendants terminated Plaintiff's employment.

65. As set forth above, a motivating factor in the decision to terminate Plaintiff's employment is Plaintiff's disability.

66. Plaintiff suffered disparate treatment in the manner in which she was terminated as compared to similarly situated able-bodied, and/or male employees, who received more favorable treatment by Defendants.

67. As such, Defendants violated the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act, 43 Pa.C.S.A. §951, et seq.

68. As a proximate result of Defendants' conduct, Plaintiff sustained significant damages, including but not limited to: great economic loss, future lost earning capacity, lost opportunity, loss of future wages, loss of front pay, loss of back pay, as well as emotional distress, pain and suffering, consequential damages and Plaintiff has also sustained work loss, loss of opportunity, and a permanent diminution of earning power and capacity and a claim is made therefore.


69. Plaintiff demands attorneys' fees and court costs.

IV. Relief Requested.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff, SARA MUNIZZA demands judgment in her favor and against Defendants, RETINOVITEROUS ASSOCIATES, LTD d/b/a MID ATLANTIC RETINA, in an amount in excess of \$150,000.00 together with:

- A. Compensatory damages, including but not limited to: back pay, front pay, past lost wages, future lost wages. Lost pay increases, lost pay incentives, lost opportunity, lost benefits, lost future earning capacity, injury to reputation, mental and emotional distress, pain and suffering;
- B. Punitive damages;
- C. Liquidated damages;
- D. Attorneys fees and costs of suit;
- E. Interest, delay damages; and,
- F. Any other further relief this Court deems just proper and equitable.

LAW OFFICES OF ERIC A. SHORE, P.C.

BY: 
GRAHAM F. BAIRD, ESQUIRE
Two Penn Center
1500 JFK Boulevard, Suite 1240
Philadelphia, PA 19102

Attorney for Plaintiff, Sara Munizza

Date: 5/25/2021

EXH. A

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To: **Sara Munizza**
1476 Makefield Road
Yardley, PA 19067

From: **Philadelphia District Office**
801 Market Street
Suite 1000
Philadelphia, PA 19107

☐

On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is
 CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))

EEOC Charge No.

530-2020-02984

EEOC Representative

Legal Technician

Telephone No.

(267) 589-9700

THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

☐

The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.

☐

Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

☐

The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.

☐

Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge

☒

The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.

☐

The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.

☐

Other (briefly state)

- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit **must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice**; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that **backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.**

On behalf of the Commission



March 2, 2021

Enclosures(s)

Jamie R. Williamson,
District Director

(Date Issued)

cc:

Michele Miles
Director of Human Resources
RETINOVEROUS; MID ATLANTIC RETINA
4060 Butler Pike, Suite 200
Plymouth Meeting, PA 19462

Linda M. Lopez, Esq.
LAW OFFICE OF ERIC SHORE
2 Penn Center
1500 John F. Kennedy Boulevard, Suite 1240
Philadelphia, PA 19102

**INFORMATION RELATED TO FILING SUIT
UNDER THE LAWS ENFORCED BY THE EEOC**

*(This information relates to filing suit in Federal or State court under Federal law.
If you also plan to sue claiming violations of State law, please be aware that time limits and other
provisions of State law may be shorter or more limited than those described below.)*

**PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA),
the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA), or the Age
Discrimination in Employment Act (ADEA):**

In order to pursue this matter further, you must file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) named in the charge **within 90 days of the date you receive this Notice**. Therefore, you should **keep a record of this date**. Once this 90-day period is over, your right to sue based on the charge referred to in this Notice will be lost. If you intend to consult an attorney, you should do so promptly. Give your attorney a copy of this Notice, and its envelope or record of receipt, and tell him or her the date you received it. Furthermore, in order to avoid any question that you did not act in a timely manner, it is prudent that your suit be filed **within 90 days of the date this Notice was issued to you** (as indicated where the Notice is signed) or the date of the postmark or record of receipt, if later.

Your lawsuit may be filed in U.S. District Court or a State court of competent jurisdiction. (Usually, the appropriate State court is the general civil trial court.) Whether you file in Federal or State court is a matter for you to decide after talking to your attorney. Filing this Notice is not enough. You must file a "complaint" that contains a short statement of the facts of your case which shows that you are entitled to relief. Your suit may include any matter alleged in the charge or, to the extent permitted by court decisions, matters like or related to the matters alleged in the charge. Generally, suits are brought in the State where the alleged unlawful practice occurred, but in some cases can be brought where relevant employment records are kept, where the employment would have been, or where the respondent has its main office. If you have simple questions, you usually can get answers from the office of the clerk of the court where you are bringing suit, but do not expect that office to write your complaint or make legal strategy decisions for you.

PRIVATE SUIT RIGHTS -- Equal Pay Act (EPA):

EPA suits must be filed in court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment: back pay due for violations that occurred **more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit** may not be collectible. For example, if you were underpaid under the EPA for work performed from 7/1/08 to 12/1/08, you should file suit **before 7/1/10** -- *not* 12/1/10 -- in order to recover unpaid wages due for July 2008. This time limit for filing an EPA suit is separate from the 90-day filing period under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA referred to above. Therefore, if you also plan to sue under Title VII, the ADA, GINA or the ADEA, in addition to suing on the EPA claim, suit must be filed within 90 days of this Notice and within the 2- or 3-year EPA back pay recovery period.

ATTORNEY REPRESENTATION -- Title VII, the ADA or GINA:

If you cannot afford or have been unable to obtain a lawyer to represent you, the U.S. District Court having jurisdiction in your case may, in limited circumstances, assist you in obtaining a lawyer. Requests for such assistance must be made to the U.S. District Court in the form and manner it requires (you should be prepared to explain in detail your efforts to retain an attorney). Requests should be made well before the end of the 90-day period mentioned above, because such requests do not relieve you of the requirement to bring suit within 90 days.

ATTORNEY REFERRAL AND EEOC ASSISTANCE -- All Statutes:

You may contact the EEOC representative shown on your Notice if you need help in finding a lawyer or if you have any questions about your legal rights, including advice on which U.S. District Court can hear your case. If you need to inspect or obtain a copy of information in EEOC's file on the charge, please request it promptly in writing and provide your charge number (as shown on your Notice). While EEOC destroys charge files after a certain time, all charge files are kept for at least 6 months after our last action on the case. Therefore, if you file suit and want to review the charge file, **please make your review request within 6 months of this Notice**. (Before filing suit, any request should be made within the next 90 days.)

IF YOU FILE SUIT, PLEASE SEND A COPY OF YOUR COURT COMPLAINT TO THIS OFFICE.

NOTICE OF RIGHTS UNDER THE ADA AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2008 (ADAAA): The ADA was amended, effective January 1, 2009, to broaden the definitions of disability to make it easier for individuals to be covered under the ADA/ADAAA. A disability is still defined as (1) a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities (actual disability); (2) a record of a substantially limiting impairment; or (3) being regarded as having a disability. *However, these terms are redefined, and it is easier to be covered under the new law.*

If you plan to retain an attorney to assist you with your ADA claim, we recommend that you share this information with your attorney and suggest that he or she consult the amended regulations and appendix, and other ADA related publications, available at http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability_regulations.cfm.

“Actual” disability or a “record of” a disability (note: if you are pursuing a failure to accommodate claim you must meet the standards for either “actual” or “record of” a disability):

- **The limitations from the impairment no longer have to be severe or significant** for the impairment to be considered substantially limiting.
- In addition to activities such as performing manual tasks, walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning, thinking, concentrating, reading, bending, and communicating (more examples at 29 C.F.R. § 1630.2(i)), **“major life activities” now include the operation of major bodily functions**, such as: functions of the immune system, special sense organs and skin; normal cell growth; and digestive, genitourinary, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, cardiovascular, endocrine, hemic, lymphatic, musculoskeletal, and reproductive functions; or the operation of an individual organ within a body system.
- **Only one** major life activity need be substantially limited.
- With the exception of ordinary eyeglasses or contact lenses, **the beneficial effects of “mitigating measures”** (e.g., hearing aid, prosthesis, medication, therapy, behavioral modifications) **are not considered** in determining if the impairment substantially limits a major life activity.
- An impairment that is **“episodic”** (e.g., epilepsy, depression, multiple sclerosis) or **“in remission”** (e.g., cancer) is a disability if it **would be substantially limiting when active**.
- An impairment **may be substantially limiting even though** it lasts or is expected to last **fewer than six months**.

“Regarded as” coverage:

- An individual can meet the definition of disability if an **employment action was taken because of an actual or perceived impairment** (e.g., refusal to hire, demotion, placement on involuntary leave, termination, exclusion for failure to meet a qualification standard, harassment, or denial of any other term, condition, or privilege of employment).
- “Regarded as” coverage under the ADAAA no longer requires that an impairment be substantially limiting, or that the employer perceives the impairment to be substantially limiting.
- The employer has a defense against a “regarded as” claim only when the impairment at issue is objectively **BOTH** transitory (lasting or expected to last six months or less) **AND** minor.
- A person is not able to bring a failure to accommodate claim *if* the individual is covered only under the “regarded as” definition of “disability.”

Note: Although the amended ADA states that the definition of disability “shall be construed broadly” and “should not demand extensive analysis,” some courts require specificity in the complaint explaining how an impairment substantially limits a major life activity or what facts indicate the challenged employment action was because of the impairment. Beyond the initial pleading stage, some courts will require specific evidence to establish disability. For more information, consult the amended regulations and appendix, as well as explanatory publications, available at http://www.eeoc.gov/laws/types/disability_regulations.cfm.